

# **Minnesota MUFON Journal**

## **Issue #88 Mar./Apr. 2001**

### **Directors Report**

**By Bill McNeff, State Director, MN MUFON**

### **ERA, Donald Menzel, Roswell and The Agency**

In January 1946, Engineering Research Associates (ERA) was started by former Navy men. Dr. Howard Engstrom and William Norris were founders. Walter J. "Wally" Moe, former Assistant State Director for Minnesota MUFON, was also a founder. The new company used the former glider factory near the intersection of Prior and University Ave. in St. Paul's Midway area. All the projects they were working on were classified. One of these projects was to develop one of the first computers (using electron tubes). They had a difficult time attracting investors since they couldn't tell them what they were working on. With the financial problems they were having, they allowed Remington Rand to buy them out in 1956. That is when many of the old timers left since they didn't like all these Remington Rand Shaver division guys from Pennsylvania telling them what to do. Bill Norris was also very unsatisfied by the amount of money Remington Rand was providing for research. So, Control Data Corp was formed by these former Univac/ERA employees, Bill Norris being the chief executive officer.

The history books say ERA developed the first computer which was sold to the government to work on the census. But, actually they shipped the first computer years before to the NSA which had just been started by Truman in September 1947 after the June 1947 Roswell crash. Congress was told NSA's purpose was to spy on America's enemies by wire tap and radio monitoring. But many researchers believe that a secret purpose of the NSA was and still is to keep track of a possible ET threat. Howard Engstrom had been Dr. Donald Menzel's WWII boss. He tried to hire Menzel at ERA in 1946 for \$10,000 a year (a whole lot for those days). (A typical starting salary in 1960 for a beginning electrical engineer was \$4,500 a year.) Menzel refused the job offer. His main (cover) job was professor of astronomy at Harvard.

During the war he wrote a book on radio propagation which was declassified after the war. He made many trips to ERA and Collins Radio in Iowa. He started consulting for ERA in 1947 and his consulting fee for the year 1948 was \$18,000, more than anyone else was paid at ERA. Obviously, his services must have been highly valued by ERA, which had trouble raising money.

According to the well known but controversial "MJ-12 Briefing Document", MJ-12 was started by President Harry Truman in the summer of 1947 to analyze the El craft(s) that had crashed at Roswell in June 1947. Menzel, at the time, was working on a project involving electrical plasma at ERA. Wally Moe said that Menzel was suddenly called to Washington in the summer of 1947 to work on some highly classified job. (He and I believe this was probably the newly forming NSA and the MJ-12 group.) Menzel's travel expense journal that was made available in 1988 by his wife (after he died in 1976) showed many trips to New Mexico starting during the summer of 1947

### **Minnesota Mufon Meetings**

**Sat., Mar. 13th**

**&**

**Sat., Apr. 10th  
1:30-4:45pm**

**Room 120, Fairview Center  
at 1910 West Co. Rd. B,  
Roseville, MN 651-415-2100**

**PARK FREE!**

**The building is designated as  
non-smoking.**

### **See map on back cover**

**Note: This building has no  
special security or elevators,  
so you can come and go as  
you please and smoke  
outdoors.**



for several years. His expenses for these trips were paid by the government, not Harvard. The above facts provide support for the idea that Menzel was making these trips to look at Er craft wreckage at the government facilities such as Sandia and White Sands, under the auspices of MJ-12.

On 2/21/01, five of us Minnesota MUFON members attended a meeting at Lockheed in Eagan to hear a presentation about the early days of ERA. Harry Wise, former ERA employee, told about that first computer, the 1101, that they shipped to the NSA. At the 1986 fortieth anniversary banquet of the ERA, they were not allowed to talk about this first computer. At this meeting, we hoped to learn more about Donald Menzel's involvement with MJ-12. There were several former ERA people at this meeting, but we were unable to learn anything new. Dr. Menzel sent a number of letters to Senator and later President John F. Kennedy in 1960 and 1961. Here are excerpts from some of these letters:

11/3/60 - "... there is one deeper and more complex area in which I may be of assistance. I have been associated since 1930 with a small organization that has now grown into the great National Security Agency. Obviously, in an unclassified letter, I cannot go further into detail. But I wish to register that I have certain facts in my possession concerning actions by Eisenhower that have had a very adverse effect in these supersensitive areas. Matters were so bad that I wrote a Top Secret report which eventually reached Eisenhower and had some temporary beneficial effect. This report can be made available to you and would serve to educate you on the shortcomings and successes in this area. Because of my length of service, I probably know more about what has gone on in this agency over the years than almost anyone with agency.!! (Note that this is about the time that Col. Philip Corso said he was put in charge of the Roswell crash material.)

12/8/60 - "since my memorandum concerning the NSA may have been misplaced during your campaign, let me repeat that I have been a consultant to the NSA for 30 years. I am one of the few people who has had continued service and contact with its varied activities."

12/27/60 & 3/3/61 - Two additional Menzel letters are available expressing concern over the strong influence on the space effort exerted by Dr. Detlev Bronk as President of the National Academy of Science, and Hugh Dryden, named number 2 man at NASA. (The MJ-12 Document listed Bronk as one of the members.)

Menzel wrote two books attempting to debunk UFOs. Dr. J. Allen Hynek showed how Menzel "cooked" the

facts about sightings in order to make them fit the explanations he was attempting to promote. There are very good reasons to suspect that Donald Menzel was heavily involved in ET craft analysis and information control. (Credit for much of this information goes to Bob Schultz.)

## CURIOS PHENOMENON IN VENEZUELA Science Frontiers, No. 132, NOV-DEC 2000, p.4, GEOPHYSICS

The description of a truly remarkable phenomenon recently appeared on **Scientific American's** web page. It also surfaced in an article by G.D. Kaswell in the journal **Infinite Energy**. These reappearances in the current literature of this well-known anecdote allow us to revisit it here. It is well worth repeating, even though many anomalists have had it in their collections for decades. (In fact, we recorded it in 1974 in vol. G1 of **Strange Phenomena**.)

As you read the following quotation from an 1886 issue of **Scientific American**, remember that the event described occurred almost a decade before the discoveries of X-rays and radioactivity. Although ball lightning was recognized in 1886, the first UFO flap was still 70 years in the future! The following brief account of a recent strange meteorological occurrence may be of interest to your readers as an addition to the list of electrical eccentricities:

During the night of the twenty-fourth of October last [1886], which was rainy and tempestuous, a family of nine persons, sleeping in a hut a few leagues from Maracaibo [Venezuela], were awakened by a loud humming noise and a vivid, dazzling light, which brilliantly illuminated the interior of the house. The occupants, completely terror stricken, and believing, as they relate, that the end of the world had come, threw themselves on their knees and commenced to pray, but their devotions were almost immediately interrupted by violent vomitings, and extensive swellings commenced to appear in the upper part of their bodies, this being particularly noticeable about the face and lips.

It is to be noted that the brilliant light was not accompanied by a sensation of heat, although there was a smoky appearance and a peculiar smell.

The next morning the swellings had subsided, leaving upon the face and body large black blotches. No special pain was felt until the ninth day, when the skin peeled off, and these blotches were transformed into virulent raw sores. The hair of the head fell off upon the side which happened to be underneath when the

phenomenon occurred, the same side of the body being, in all nine cases, the more seriously injured.

The remarkable part of the occurrence is that the house was uninjured, all the doors and windows being closed at the time. No trace of lightning could afterward be observed in any part of the building, and all the sufferers unite in saying that there was no detonation, but only the loud humming already mentioned.

Another curious attendant circumstance is that the trees around the house showed no signs of injury until the ninth day, when they suddenly withered, almost simultaneously with the development of the sores upon the bodies of the occupants of the house.

This is perhaps a mere coincidence, but it is remarkable that the same susceptibility to electrical effects, with the same lapse of time, should be observed in both animal and vegetable organisms. I have visited the sufferers, who are now in one of the hospitals of this city; and although their appearance is truly horrible, yet it is hoped that in no case will the injuries prove fatal.

(Signed: Warner Cowgill, U.S. Consulate, Maracaibo, Venezuela, November 17, 1886.)

(Cowgill, Warner; "Curious Phenomenon in Venezuela," \*Scientific American\*, 55:389, 1886.)

The article in **Infinite Energy** discusses in some depth the reality of ball lightning, the similarities to modern UFO reports, the reliability of anecdotes, and, especially, the nature of the physiological effects, which resemble, in some aspects, radiation sickness resulting from exposure to intense X-rays or nuclear devices.

It is also interesting that this anecdote, long consigned to "fringe" publications, has now been resurrected in digital form by **Scientific American**, which is an establishment publication if there ever was one. Kaswell writes to this point as follows:

My purpose was (in part) to show that mainstream scientists in mainstream publications like **Scientific American** evaluate the largely anecdotal evidence for the relatively non-controversial ball lightning by a different and more lenient standard than that they reserve for the highly controversial UFO reports. The Maracaibo case illustrates this beautifully, precisely because the report has aspects similar to both phenomena.

(Kaswell, Gordon David; "Phenomenon in Venezuela: A Documented Case of Unexplained Radiation Exposure," **Infinite Energy**, 6:33, no. 32, 2000. Journal address: P.O. Box 2816, Concord, NH 03302-2816.)

Comment: The conversion of science archives to digital form so that they can be accessed on the Web is shallow time wise. The appearance of this 1886 item is an exception. Much old information is being excluded by this transformation of media. In effect, if not intent, it is like the destruction of the Mayan codices by the Spanish priests.

EDITOR'S NOTE: Although the article "assumes" that ball lightning is to blame, there is no proof to that effect. The radiation burns are not likely from mere ball lightning. Burns would have been instant. Details are very similar to the classic Cash-Landrum case in 1980, Texas, investigated by John Schuessler, where two women and a child were exposed to high radiation from a UFO.

### Why It's Likely 'We're Not Alone In Cosmos' By Leslie Papp, Staff Reporter The Toronto Star, Feb. 20, 2001

<http://www.thestar.com/>

[World News]

"It's one more indication that life might be common in the galaxy. There's no direct evidence there's another Earth, but it's pointing in that direction."

- U of T astronomer Norman Murray

SAN FRANCISCO - A Toronto astronomer has found fresh evidence that we're likely not alone in the cosmos. After analyzing the iron content of stars, Norman Murray of the University of Toronto has concluded "Earth-like bodies" orbit around most stars in our galaxy.

And, if that many stars have planets, it greatly increases the odds of having other 'Earths' that can support life.

"It's one more indication that life might be common in the galaxy," Murray told reporters at a science conference here. "There's no direct evidence there's another Earth, but it's pointing in that direction."

His findings were released yesterday at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the world's largest federation of scientists.

Murray found that a high iron content is common to our sun and to the 55 sun-like stars which are known to have giant planets. The existence of these planets has been deduced through their huge gravitational pull, which exerts a visible influence on their "sun." In one

case, a planet has actually been observed passing across the face of its parent star.

Using imaging technology that can establish the materials stewing within stars, Murray examined the iron level in 466 stars. Subjecting that data to a series of intricate calculations, he found statistical patterns which showed the iron must have been added after the stars had formed.

Murray examined the iron level in 466 stars. And he systematically eliminated possible iron sources until concluding there could only be one source: orbiting planetary material. "Our own solar system shows how planets spin iron into the sun," he said.

A huge ring of iron-rich asteroids between Mars and Jupiter is continually being disrupted by Jupiter's gravity, sending some asteroids spinning out of our solar system and others hurtling into the sun. A few are caught by Earth's gravity and become meteors. Over eons, iron twice the mass of Earth has accumulated in the sun. Murray said. And there's a similar iron "signature" in the other sun-like stars known to have planets.

Based on iron content, "there are Earth-like bodies orbiting around most stars in the galaxy," he said.

If just half the galaxy's stars have some sort of planet, and if even one per cent of those planets were Earth-like, it would mean the existence of more than a billion "Earths," he said.

Murray said it's possible to have iron-rich asteroids spinning around a star without any planets. But, for that orbiting iron to get into the star, some planet would need to disrupt asteroids and send them crashing into the star.

## **NIDS Proposes Montana Cattle Mutilations Had 'National Security Implications'**

**By Daniel Major 2-14-01**

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1975-1977 was a period of frequent reports of UFO sightings around the United States. 1975-1977 also coincided with peak reports of a phenomenon known as animal mutilation (for more details on animal mutilation see: <http://www.nidsci.org/articles/articles2.html>).

The community around Great Falls, Montana was no exception to this nationwide trend. However, two features about Great Falls are of interest with respect to this NIDS report. The first is that Great Falls was

(and is) home to Malmstrom Air Force Base (MAFB). MAFB and its surrounding area was an integral part of the nations missile launching capability during the cold war with 221 Minuteman III missile silos, and functioned as an important section of the entire Northern Tier early warning system for incoming Soviet missiles. The second atypical feature about Great Falls was an unusually open-minded and energetic sheriff's captain. Captain Keith Wolverton was prepared to go the extra mile in investigating UFOs, animal mutilations and bizarre happenings in the area. Wolverton's energy and dedication were instrumental in alerting the people of Cascade County, and even in nearby Teton County, that if they reported UFOs, animal mutilations or unidentified flying lights, they would not be ridiculed and their reports would not be trivialized.

Captain Wolverton allowed NIDS full access to his original papers and files detailing the investigations that he carried out on behalf of the Cascade County sheriff's department in 1975-1977. NIDS was able to analyze the data in these files and they comprise an interesting picture of a wave of anomalous activity within a 40-mile radius of Great Falls and MAFB. Captain Wolverton's files comprised the original police blotters, original memoranda and original photo negatives detailing the department's investigations into 192 UFO and unknown helicopter sightings, and 67 reports of animal mutilations, the vast majority happening within a forty miles radius of MAFB.

The timing of the UFO wave around MAFB is almost exactly contemporaneous with similar anomalous incidents that happened in October 1975 at Loring AFB Maine, Wurtsmith AFB Michigan, Minot AFB North Dakota and at the Canadian Air Force base at Falconbridge Ontario.

The purpose of this preliminary paper is to examine two separate and unrelated questions: (a) Was there a linkage between the animal mutilations (temporal and geographical) and the unidentified aircraft flying in the area around Cascade County Montana 1975 through 1977 and (b) did the repeated unauthorized incursions of these flying objects over MAFB and missile silo airspace, when examined in the context of simultaneous incursions at other AFBS across the Northern Tier, constitute a national security issue for the United States?

NIDS reports the first statistically significant correlation between mutilations and UFO/helicopter activity in the full report (25 pages) in the What's New section of the NIDS web site at: <http://www.nidsci.org> Further, we propose that the UFO wave in Montana had National Security implications.

## **Alien Microbe Reported Found in Earth's Atmosphere**

**By Robert Roy Britt, Senior Science Writer,**  
**27 Nov. 2000**

A group of scientists says it has collected an alien bacterium 10 miles above Earth, plus signatures of other extraterrestrial microbes even higher in the atmosphere. The claims were met with immediate skepticism by other scientists.

The bacterium was collected 10 miles (16 kilometers) high by balloon operated by the Indian Space Research Organization. Chandra Wickramasinghe, who leads a study into the results, called the microbe a previously unknown strain of bacteria and said it likely came from a comet.

Wickramasinghe and a colleague, Fred Hoyle, say the findings support an idea they pioneered, called panspermia, which holds that the seeds of life are everywhere in space and are the source for life on Earth.

Matthew Genge, an expert on meteorites and cometary debris at London's Natural History Museum, said he was flabbergasted by the claim.

"I don't believe the authors have provided the kind of evidence that would be needed to support their claim," Genge said. "Their announcement appears premature."

Genge, who does not rule out panspermia as a possibility, said nonetheless that the supposed alien bacteria could have been previously unknown strains of terrestrial bacteria.

"Hitherto unknown strains of bacteria are found virtually every day," Genge told [www.SPACE.com](http://www.SPACE.com). "If no one had ever seen or heard of an elephant and suddenly one was discovered this wouldn't be evidence that it comes from space."

Wickramasinghe countered that procedures precluded the instruments aboard the balloon from being contaminated on the ground or on the way up, but he acknowledged the possibility of contamination at the point where the collection was made. "Earthly bacteria could get up to 15 kilometers from several sources," Wickramasinghe told [www.SPACE.com](http://www.SPACE.com). "Also there is a chance that unknown strains of bacteria were lofted from the heights of the Himalayas." Wickramasinghe said his group wouldn't reveal details until the microbe is studied further.

### **High-flying bacteria**

Genge echoed the cautions of other scientists in saying that dust carrying terrestrial bacteria had been found in the collection filters of NASA U2 aircraft doing similar research for 15 years.

"There is in fact enormous amounts of dust from the Earth's surface at high altitude, both artificial and natural in origin, and some of it undoubtedly carries bacteria," Genge said. "Another possible form of contamination could also be human waste," Genge said. "Passenger aircraft fly at 10 miles altitude and eject human waste into the atmosphere. A fine spray of such liquid released into the atmosphere at high altitude will form tiny ice grains containing bacteria these will become widely dispersed."

NASA also commented on the claim, pointing out that living spores have been found previously as high as 10 miles. "While NASA's astrobiology effort has certainly not come down on the side of panspermia, it has identified panspermia as worthy of serious investigation, along with more conventional ideas about the origin of life on Earth," said a press release out of NASA's Ames Research Center.

Other scientists also urged caution in interpreting the results. Meanwhile, recent studies by other groups have boosted panspermia into the spotlight, and many leading researchers are warming to the idea that microbes may be hardy enough to endure the rigors of space travel.

### **More evidence of alien microbes**

Wickramasinghe and his colleagues, based at the recently formed Cardiff Centre for Astrobiology in Wales, also studied data from a 1999 Leonid fireball, collected at 52 miles (83 kilometers) altitude. The original study on this data, produced by a team led by Ray Russell of the Aerospace Corporation, found organic compounds indicating that the building blocks of life could have survived a trip from space to Earth.

Working with the Leonid fireball data in a separate study, the Cardiff team concluded that the fireball actually did contain a signature of microbes that rained down from space. The study analyzed the infrared light emitted by the fireball, which the researchers say showed signs of burning bacteria. Further, they say this signature resembled the infrared spectra of comet dust. "There is little chance if any of Earthly bacteria resident at such great heights," Wickramasinghe said.

But Genge flatly refuted the group's analysis of the Leonid fireball data. "The infrared spectra of the Leonid meteors are not evidence for bacteria, nor are the infrared spectra of comets," Genge said.

He added that the data show a feature that is common in all organic material. "If you took me, put me in an oven, dried me at 300 degrees and then took my infrared spectra, I'd have (this feature) too. This would certainly not be evidence that you'll find Matt Genges on comets."

The whole debate is reminiscent of claims of microscopic fossils in a meteorite from Mars, reported by NASA scientists in 1996. Scientists are still debating that finding.

## **UFO Shuts Down Russian Airport**

MOSCOW, Jan 27, 2001 -- (Agence France Presse) An airport in southern Siberia was shut down for an hour and a half on Friday when an unidentified flying object (UFO) was detected hovering above its runway, the Interfax news agency reported.

The crew of an 11-76 cargo aircraft refused to take off, claiming they saw a luminescent object hovering above the runway of the Siberia's Barnaul airport, local aviation company director Ivan Komarov was quoted as saying. The crew of another cargo plane, refusing to use the runway for the same reason, landed their jet at another airport, Komarov said.

The UFO took off and vanished from the airport 90 minutes later, according to the report.

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<http://www.russiatoday.com/news.php3?id=270624>

## **Something Rotten at the Core of Science?**

**by David F. Horrobin**  
**Trends in Pharmacological Sciences**  
**Vol. 22, No. 2, February 2001**

[http://news.bmn.com/hmsbeagle/95/viewpts/op\\_ed](http://news.bmn.com/hmsbeagle/95/viewpts/op_ed)

### **Abstract**

A recent U.S. Supreme Court decision and an analysis of the peer review system substantiate complaints about this fundamental aspect of scientific research. Far from filtering out junk science, peer review may be blocking the flow of innovation and corrupting public support of science.

The U.S. Supreme Court has recently been wrestling with the issues of the acceptability and reliability of scientific evidence. In its judgment in the case of *Daubert v. Merrell Dow*, the court attempted to set guidelines for U.S. judges to follow when listening to scientific experts. Whether or not findings had been published in a peer-reviewed journal provided one important criterion. But in a key caveat, the court emphasized that peer review might sometimes be flawed, and that therefore this criterion was not unequivocal evidence of validity or otherwise. A recent analysis of peer review adds to this controversy by identifying an alarming lack of correlation between reviewers recommendations.

The Supreme Court questioned the authority of peer review. Many scientists and lawyers are unhappy about the admission by the top legal authority in the United States that peer review might in some circumstances be flawed [1]. David Goodstein, writing in the Guide to the Federal Rules of Evidence one of whose functions is to interpret the judgment in the case of *Daubert* states that Peer review is one of the sacred pillars of the scientific edifice [2]. In public, at least, almost all scientists would agree. Those who disagree are almost always dismissed in pejorative terms such as maverick, failure, and driven by bitterness.

Peer review is central to the organization of modern science. The peer-review process for submitted manuscripts is a crucial determinant of what sees the light of day in a particular journal. Fortunately, it is less effective in blocking publication completely; there are so many journals that most even modestly competent studies will be published provided that the authors are determined enough. The publication might not be in a prestigious journal, but at least it will get into print.

However, peer review is also the process that controls access to funding, and here the situation becomes much more serious. There might often be only two or three realistic sources of funding for a project, and the networks of reviewers for these sources are often interacting and interlocking. Failure to pass the peer-review process might well mean that a project is never funded. Science bases its presumed authority in the world on the reliability and objectivity of the evidence that is produced. If the pronouncements of science are to be greeted with public confidence and there is plenty of evidence to suggest that such confidence is low and eroding it should be able to demonstrate that peer review, one of the sacred pillars of the scientific edifice, is a process that has been validated objectively as a reliable process for putting a stamp of approval on work that has been done. Peer review should also have been validated as reliable method for making appropriate

choices as to what work should be done. Yet when one looks for that evidence it is simply not there.

Why not apply scientific methods to the peer review process? For 30 years or so, I and others have been pointing out the fallibility of peer review and have been calling for much more openness and objective evaluation of its procedures [3-5]. For the most part, the scientific establishment, its journals, and its grant-giving bodies have resisted such open evaluation. They fail to understand that if a process that is as central to the scientific endeavor as peer review has no validated experimental base, and if it consistently refuses open scrutiny, it is not surprising that the public is increasingly skeptical about the agenda and the conclusions of science.

Largely because of this antagonism to openness and evaluation, there is a great lack of good evidence either way concerning the objectivity and validity of peer review. What evidence there is does not give confidence but is open to many criticisms. Now, Peter Rothwell and Christopher Martyn have thrown a bombshell [6]. Their conclusions are measured and cautious, but there is little doubt that they have provided solid evidence of something truly rotten at the core of science.

Forget the reviewers. Just flip a coin.

Rothwell and Martyn performed a detailed evaluation of the reviews of papers submitted to two neuroscience journals. Each journal normally sent papers out to two reviewers. Reviews of abstracts and oral presentations sent to two neuroscience meetings were also evaluated. One meeting sent its abstracts to 16 reviewers and the other to 14 reviewers, which provides a good opportunity for statistical evaluation. Rothwell and Martyn analyzed the correlations among reviewers recommendations by analysis of variance. Their report should be read in full; however, the conclusions are alarmingly clear. For one journal, the relationships among the reviewers opinions were no better than that obtained by chance. For the other journal, the relationship was only fractionally better. For the meeting abstracts, the content of the abstract accounted for only about 10 to 20 percent of the variance in opinion of referees, and other factors accounted for 80 to 90 percent of the variance.

These appalling figures will not be surprising to critics of peer review, but they give solid substance to what these critics have been saying. The core system by which the scientific community allots prestige (in terms of oral presentations at major meetings and publication in major journals) and funding is a non-validated charade whose processes generate results little better

than does chance. Given the fact that most reviewers are likely to be mainstream and broadly supportive of the existing organization of the scientific enterprise, it would not be surprising if the likelihood of support for truly innovative research was considerably less than that provided by chance. Objective evaluation of grant proposals is a high priority. Scientists frequently become very angry about the publics rejection of the conclusions of the scientific process.

However, the Rothwell and Martyn findings, coming on top of so much other evidence, suggest that the public might be right in groping its way to a conclusion that there is something rotten in the state of science. Public support can only erode further if science does not put its house in order and begin a real attempt to develop validated processes for the distribution of publication rights, credit for completed work, and funds for new work. Funding is the most important issue that most urgently requires opening up to rigorous research and objective evaluation.

What relevance does this have for pharmacology and pharmaceuticals? Despite enormous amounts of hype and optimistic puffery, pharmaceutical research is actually failing [7]. The annual number of new chemical entities submitted for approval is steadily falling in spite of the enthusiasm for techniques such as combinatorial chemistry, high-throughput screening, and pharmacogenomics. The drive to merge pharmaceutical companies is driven by failure, and not by success.

The peer review process may be stifling innovation.

Could the peer-review processes in both academia and industry have destroyed rather than promoted innovation? In my own field of psychopharmacology, could it be that peer review has ensured that in depression and schizophrenia, we are still largely pursuing themes that were initiated in the 1950s? Could peer review explain the fact that in both diseases the efficacy of modern drugs is no better than those compounds developed in 1950? Even in terms of side-effects, where the differences between old and new drugs are much hyped, modern research has failed substantially. Is it really a success that 27 of every 100 patients taking the selective 5-HT reuptake inhibitors stop treatment within six weeks compared with the 30 of every 100 who take a 1950s tricyclic antidepressant compound? The Rothwell-Martyn bombshell is a wake-up call to the cozy establishments who run science. If science is to have any credibility and also if it is to be successful the peer-review process must be put on a much sounder and properly validated basis or scrapped altogether.

David F. Horrobin, a longtime critic of anonymous peer review, heads Laxdale Ltd., which develops novel treatments for psychiatric disorders. In 1972 he founded Medical Hypotheses, the only journal fully devoted to discussion of ideas in medicine.

### **The X-File of Gricignano d'Aversa Roberto Pinotti - Dec. 9, 1954**

A farmer, Giovanni Aquilante, disappeared after he left home to go work in the fields. His family began to look for him, and the Police were informed.

But it was impossible to find him.

On the next day (Dec. 10, 1954), toward midnight, two of Giovanni's sons and a friend noticed in the field, on their way home after the fruitless search for their father, two mysterious humanoid figures with luminous eyes. Only young Andrea Aquilante tried to follow them, but they disappeared. Next morning (Dec. 11, 1954), 48 hours after his disappearance, Giovanni returned home, silent and shocked. During the last 48 hours it had rained in the area, but his clothes were quite dry.

Later Giovanni Aquilante explained that he met two little "dwarfs" in the fields, wearing multi-colored suits. They held his hands, and he began to float into the air with them, starting a "trip" to "unknown places". After two days, they released him, but told him they were going to take him again in the future. Since then Giovanni was no longer the same, and lived in the constant fear of his abductors.

He was highly esteemed by his neighbors before the incident, and CUN field investigator Umberto Telarico had a very positive opinion about the whole story when he re-visited the case.

It seems this is Italy's first abduction, and the second in the world after 1947. Although it was unsuccessful, the first one was the experience of Ghaseme Fili (Gasim Faili) of Amireah Street, in Teheran, Iran, occurred at 2:30 a.m. of October 8, 1954. This man was on the second floor of his house when he saw a luminous, white flying object stop in mid-air 20 m. away. Lights were shining from the rear and the sides of the craft, inside could be seen a small man dressed in black, wearing a mask with a trunk like an elephant.

"I was standing with both hands on the bar of my balcony, looking with astonishment at this strange object, when I suddenly felt as though I were being drawn up toward the object by a magnet", he said. Mr. Fili cried out in terror waking his neighbors.

The object shot straight up, emitting sparks, and it was lost to sight almost immediately. As a consequence, Giovanni Aquilante's experience may be considered, after all, the first reported abduction, and it sounds very similar to the Hickson-Parker abduction case in Pascagoula (USA, 1973).

### **Field Investigator Update: February/March 2001**

**By Craig Lang - MN MUFON FI Coord.**

Each year the spring months usually see an upturn in the number of UFO reports. Nationally, columns such as Filer's Files often report an increased number of sightings in the spring months. Perhaps this is because people begin to emerge more into the out-of-doors as the weather gets nicer. Or perhaps there are other reasons which we do not yet understand. It is with this anticipation that the MUFON field investigator group looks forward to the coming months.

Given the expected upturn in the number of UFO sightings, it becomes all the more important to train new investigators, and to help them gain experience in the field. As I write this, our February Field Investigator class is in progress, with four new investigators currently studying the basics of sighting investigation. The class is conducted in three sessions: The first on the basic procedures of investigation; The second on interviewing sighting witnesses; And the third on how to do the paperwork (yes, sighting investigation is a lot of work). By the time this goes to press, our four new investigators should be credentialed and ready to make their marks on UFOlogy.

We already have several people interested in the next class, which we will probably conduct later this Spring. Classes are conducted approximately three times a year, as sufficient interest is indicated. If you are interested, and feel that you have the necessary time, energy, and objectivity to be a UFO investigator, please contact Craig Lang. If you have not already done so, you also will need to join MUFON as a field investigator trainee and purchase the MUFON field investigators manual. We always need more investigators in our effort to better understand the UFO phenomenon. Those who seriously take up the study of UFO events, mystery will never be in short supply.

In the last month or so, MN MUFON investigators have continued to be active on a number of cases, both old and new. A number of these are brought to our attention through the Minnesota MUFON website or other official channels. Others come to individual investigators "through the grapevine". In either way, a

significant number of cases are being investigated with some cases nearing completion. Some examples of a current investigation by Bill McNeill follow:

At about 6:00pm on Jan. 25, 2001, Bill McNeill received a call from a 32 year old man who has had several sightings over the past one and one half years, some of which he has captured on videotape. On his way to work between 3:00 and 3:20pm that day, heading west from the Phalen Park area on Hwy 36, he had sighted what appeared as a horizontal white, thin straight line, moving west ahead of his vehicle. Initially, he said, it was the length of a finger held at arm's length. Later it appeared as a vertical line, then as a V-shape, a "string V" as he termed it. He stopped at a camera store en route and attempted to get a person there to photograph the object, but it had gone out of sight. No other reports have yet been received. The description does not fit any known object.

On March 6, 2000 at 10:30pm, the same man had seen a glowing object described as a perfect sphere, which he felt was the size of a beach ball about 3 to 4 blocks away at its closest. The object, at first small in size, was first seen in the NE from his location on County Road C in Roseville about a mile west of Interstate 35W. It slanted down rapidly toward the SE and the witness believed it may have landed about 3 to 4 blocks away, but trees in the area obscure the horizon, and it is possible it passed out of sight over the horizon. No sound was heard. Initially the object glowed white, then changed to an orange color. He described it as being similar to an "orb" sighted by a Mexican boy some time before his own sighting. The whole sighting lasted 2.5 to 3.0 seconds. The witness estimated the object was traveling at 1500 mph. The field investigator notes that the object may have been a meteor.

In addition, Craig continues to get new reports of close encounters of the fourth kind (CE4s). Many of these come from experiencers who have previously indicated CE4 activity. However, several new experiencers have contacted him in recent months to describe events which suggest that they underwent extraordinary personal experiences. Such indicator events include (to name a few): Missing time; Puzzling events in a persons life - which try as one might, simply don't make sense; Repeated encounters with UFO's, ghosts, the paranormal, etc. throughout one's life.; Obsessions or aversions related to UFO's, outdoor locations, the sky, etc. In addition, anomalous memories sometimes seem to appear out of nowhere - of scenarios such as being in a hospital surrounded by strange "doctors", or lying on a table in a strange featureless room.

These are among the many indicators to suggest that the close encounter phenomenon may be manifest in

one's life. The Roper Poll of unusual experiences suggests that up to one percent of humanity may have enough of these indicators to qualify as possible experiencers. In the Twin Cities alone, that adds up to ten to twenty thousand people. And so it would appear that even the increasing number of people who have contacted Minnesota MUFON in recent times may only be the tip of the iceberg.

For further details on sighting and encounter cases being investigated by MN MUFON, please check our website ([www.mnmufon.org](http://www.mnmufon.org)). Also stay tuned to this column each newsletter as we discuss the most current MN MUFON sighting cases. In addition, if you know of any information that might bring to light any sightings or encounters, or have any further updates on events discussed in this column, please contact Craig Lang: (ph: 763-560-1532, e-mail: [crlang@mm.com](mailto:crlang@mm.com), or contact Minnesota MUFON through our webpage at: [www.mnmufon.org](http://www.mnmufon.org)).

Other upcoming events of interest to sighting investigators: Again this year, Minnesota MUFON will have a presence at the upcoming MarsCon science fiction convention. This will be on the weekend of May 11th, 12th and 13th at the Radisson South at Hwy 100 and 1494. As of this writing, the plan is for Joel to conduct a panel on UFO Field investigation on the evening of Friday May 11th. In addition, Craig will be conducting a talk on close encounters on Saturday the 12th in the early evening, and a talk on First Contact on Sunday the 13th in the early afternoon. Minnesota MUFON also plans to have an information booth present throughout the entire conference. Stay tuned to the MarsCon website: [www.marscon.org](http://www.marscon.org)) or contact Minnesota MUFON for details. We hope to see you there.

Until next issue, Happy Investigating...

## **MINNESOTA MUFON WILL BE PRESENTING UFO PANELS AND A PROMO BOOTH AT MARS CON SCIENCE FICTION CONVENTION:**

Minnesota MUFON PANEL INFO (SO FAR):

-UFO Field Investigation:

Fri., May 11, 9pm (Joel Henry)

-CE4's: Real Events in the Present Day:

Sat., May 12, 6PM (Craig Lang)

-First Contact Scenarios:

Sun., May 13, 1PM (Craig Lang)

MarsCon 2001: a space oddity

May 11-13, 2001

Radisson South Hotel, Bloomington, Minnesota

Guests of Honor (so far):

-Author and past president of the Science Fiction Writers of America, Jane Yolen, America's Hans Christian Andersen" —Newsweek

-Alien actor Bill Blair and makeup artist Carl Talliaferro will bring their talents for developing alien characters using prosthetic makeup.

-Christopher Jones will be our Fan / Artist GoH. Some of you may know him as the designer of 'Connie' over at CONvergence.

-Michael Liebmann will be our Music GoH. Michael is from Georgia, by way of California and New York.

MarsCon contact info:

MarsCon, P.O. Box 600458, St. Paul, MN 55106

Telephone: 612-724-0687

Email: [200linfo@marscon.org](mailto:200linfo@marscon.org) (questions on MarsCon)

Website: <http://www.marscon.org>

**From: Royce J. Myers III - The Watchdog**  
**UFOWATCHDOG.COM**  
[ufowatchdog@earthlink.net](mailto:ufowatchdog@earthlink.net)

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-NASA Responds to FOX TV's "Moon Conspiracy"

-Lowery Abduction Case To Be Presented

-"World's Foremost UFO Researcher" Exposed

\*\*\*UFO DIRTBAG OF THE MONTH FOR FEB. 2001\*\*\*

"The Shameless Psychic and His Prophecy of Lies"

UFOWATCHDOG.COM Investigates the Claims of Sean David Morton

\*\*\*UFO HALL OF FRAUDS, DIRTBAGS, DUPES AND MORONS\*\*\*

Thank you for your time and attention. And as always, don't trip on your open mind...

Sincerely,

Royce J. Myers III, Editor  
U FO WATCH DOG .COM

**How did matter come to dominate**

**the universe?**

**Tim Stephens, [stephens@cats.ucsc.edu](mailto:stephens@cats.ucsc.edu)**  
**U of California, Santa Cruz, 16 FEB 2001**

San Francisco, CA--The seemingly unremarkable fact that the universe is full of matter turns out to be something physicists can't quite account for. According to the big bang theory, equal amounts of matter and antimatter were created at the birth of the universe, but precious little antimatter is to be found in the universe today. Everything we see, from our bodies to our cars to the stars in distant galaxies, is made of matter.

Cosmic rays and high-energy physics labs routinely create antimatter particles, but they soon interact with particles of matter and vanish in bursts of pure energy. Somehow, within a fraction of a nanosecond after the big bang, matter gained the upper hand. Physicists believe subtle differences in the behavior of matter and antimatter led to a slight excess of matter in the very early universe. While most of the matter and antimatter created in the big bang quickly disappeared in a blaze of mutual annihilation, about one out of every billion particles of matter survived.

"Until the 1960s, the laws of nature were thought to be completely symmetric between matter and antimatter," says Michael Dine, a leading theorist and professor of physics at the University of California, Santa Cruz. "We now know that the symmetry is not quite exact, but our ideas about where the asymmetry comes from remain somewhat speculative." Two new accelerators, one at the Stanford Linear Accelerator Center (SLAC) in Palo Alto and another in Japan, have begun to yield results that could reveal exactly how the symmetry between matter and antimatter is broken. The challenge for theorists like Dine will be to incorporate the new experimental results into a theoretical framework that satisfactorily accounts for the observed asymmetry. In a talk entitled "Why the Universe is Made of Matter, Dine will discuss various ideas put forth to explain the source of the asymmetry that enabled matter to dominate the universe.

The talk is part of a session on matter and antimatter on Friday, February 16, at the annual meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in San Francisco. The latest results from accelerator experiments designed to measure the effects of the asymmetry will also be presented in this session. Evidence that the laws of nature are not completely symmetric with respect to matter and antimatter first emerged in 1964, when a violation of the so-called charge-parity (CP) symmetry was observed in ephemeral particles known as K mesons, or

kaons. Researchers discovered a tiny discrepancy between kaons and anti-kaons in the way they decay. In 1967, Soviet physicist Andrei Sakharov laid out the basic principles needed to understand this asymmetry and how it led to the dominance of matter in the universe. Sakharov showed that the violation of CP symmetry is just one of three conditions that must be satisfied to explain how an imbalance arose between matter and antimatter. There must also be violation of a conservation law, called the "conservation of baryon number," and the early universe cannot always have been in thermal equilibrium. The prevailing theory of particle physics, called the Standard Model, readily accommodates the minute CP violation seen in the decay of kaons. But the violation of CP symmetry allowed by the Standard Model is too small to account for the amount of matter observed in the universe.

"Careful study in recent years has shown that you cannot produce nearly enough matter if the Standard Model is the whole story," Dine says. "To explain why we are here, there must be modifications of the laws of nature at very high energy." One proposed modification of the Standard Model is supersymmetry, a set of ideas that suggest nature should exhibit a new symmetry at extremely high energies. Supersymmetry allows stronger CP violation than the Standard Model and also offers interesting ways to meet Sakharov's other two conditions for generating the asymmetry between matter and antimatter, Dine says. While the Standard Model provides only one parameter that violates CP symmetry, supersymmetry predicts a whole new class of subatomic particles and new ways for CP violation to come about.

If the theory is correct, the new particles predicted by supersymmetry should be detected when powerful new accelerators begin operating in the next few years. Meanwhile, efforts continue to measure accurately the symmetry-breaking parameter predicted by the Standard Model. To do this, physicists are turning from kaons to their heavier cousins, the B mesons. At SLAC and at the High Energy Accelerator Research Organization (KEK) in Tsukuba, Japan, new accelerators called "B factories" have been churning out vast numbers of B mesons and anti-B mesons in experiments designed to measure CP violation in their decays. Some versions of supersymmetry and other proposed modifications of the Standard Model make quite dramatic predictions for the experiments now being conducted at the B factories. At the AAAS meeting, Dine will provide a theorist's perspective on the latest results from those experiments. Dine says he is hopeful that the new results will not fit neatly within the Standard Model. "The Standard Model has been a source of frustration because it can't fully explain where

the asymmetry between matter and antimatter comes from. If these new experiments support the Standard Model, then we will still have a puzzle," he says. Editor's note: Reporters may contact Dine at 831-459-3033 or [dine@scipp.ucsc.edu](mailto:dine@scipp.ucsc.edu).

## Corrections:

The Nov./Dec. issue (# 86) of the Minnesota MUFON Journal had an article titled: IS THERE A CONNECTION BETWEEN AIDS AND THE GRAYS? by Richard Moss, MN MUFON ASD. Dr. Phillip Duke recommended a few corrections to the article. It is too long to reprint here, but the full corrected text can be viewed at:

<http://www.mnmufon.org/aidset.htm>

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